

REMARKS

Claim 3 is pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been cancelled. Claim 3 is in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

4-5. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,505,506 to Kleefeldt in view of European Publication 940,241 to Schneegans. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner contends that Kleefeldt discloses a method for fabricating a supporting assembly including “placing the first metal plate (14) into a mold die (col. 2, lines 58-64; col. 3, lines 14-20), inserting the actuating pin (12) into the mold die which is separate and spaced from the first metal plate (fig. 1; col. 3, lines 14-20), and molding the shell to the first metal plate in the mold die and around the actuating pin to englobe the actuating pin in the shell (col. 2, lines 61-63).” The Examiner also contends that Schneegans discloses a method for fabricating a supporting assembly for a lock of a motor vehicle in which a seal gasket on an edge of the base member made of plastic material is co-molded in the same molding station in which co-molding the shell on the metal element is performed (abstract). The Examiner further contends that Kleefeldt discloses removing the first metal plate (14) and co-molded shell (8) from the mold die, and placing a second metal plate against the gasket to close the housing formed by the shell between the first (14) and second metal plates (col. 1, lines 38-50).

Kleefeldt discloses a steel plate (2) including a tab (12') that is bent up from the steel plate (2). A housing (5) is injected molded around the steel plate (2). A cover (8) is injected molded around another steel plate (14). A rectangular-section outer end of the tab (12') fits through a complementary rectangular slot or formation in the steel plate (14) imbedded in the cover (8) and is headed over like a rivet to secure it permanently therein.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 3 to include the steps previously set forth in claim 4.

Applicant has cancelled claim 4.

If the cover (8) is molded to the first metal plate (14) in the mold die and around the actuating pin (12) to at least partially englobe the actuating pin (12) in the cover (8), as the Examiner contends, then the steps previously set forth in claim 4 cannot be accomplished. Namely, (i) removing the first metal plate (14) and co-molded shell (8) from the mold die, (ii) assembling actuating members to the actuating pin (12), and (iii) placing a second metal plate against a seal gasket to close the housing formed by the shell between the first metal plate (14) and second metal plate. This is because Kleefeldt already discloses a first metal plate (14) and a second metal plate (2). Thus, the cited references do not disclose each of the steps claimed in amended independent claim 3.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleefeldt in view of Schneegans be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Dec. 2, 2010
Attorney Docket No: 19339-134326